

§ 25.275

5130.22. A person may not begin operation of a pilot brewing plant until receiving notice from the regional director (compliance) of the approval of the bond. Operations may continue only as long as an approved bond is in effect.

(b) *Penal sum.* The penal sum of a bond covering the premises of a pilot brewing plant will be an amount equal to the potential tax liability of the maximum quantity of beer on hand, in transit to the plant, and unaccounted for at any one time, computed by multiplying the quantity of beer in barrels by the rate of tax in 26 U.S.C. 5051. The penal sum of the bond (or total penal sum if original and strengthening bonds are filed) may not exceed \$50,000 or be less than \$500.

(c) *Conditions of bonds.* The bond will be conditioned that the operator of the pilot brewing plant shall pay, or cause to be paid, to the United States according to the laws of the United States and the provisions of this part, the taxes, including penalties and interest for which the operator shall become liable, on all beer brewed, produced, or received on the premises.

(Sec. 4, Pub. L. 91-673, 84 Stat. 2057, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5417))

§ 25.275 Special tax.

The special tax imposed on a brewer by 26 U.S.C. 5091 shall be paid in accordance with subpart I of this part.

§ 25.276 Operations and records.

(a) *Commencement of operations.* A person may commence operation of a pilot brewing plant upon receipt of the approved application and bond.

(b) *Reports.* The operator of a pilot brewing plant is not required to file the Brewer's Report of Operations, Form 5130.9 with the regional director (compliance).

(c) *Records.* The operator of a pilot brewing plant shall maintain records which, in the opinion of the regional director (compliance), are appropriate to the type of operation being conducted. These records will include information sufficient to account for the receipt, production, and disposition of all beer received or produced on the premises, and the receipt (and disposition, if removed) of all brewing mate-

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rials. These records will be available for inspection by an ATF officer.

(Sec. 4, Pub. L. 91-673, 84 Stat. 2057, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5417))

[T.D. ATF-224, 51 FR 7673, Mar. 5, 1986, as amended by T.D. ATF-345, 58 FR 40357, July 28, 1993]

§ 25.277 Discontinuance of operations.

When operations of a pilot brewing plant are to be discontinued, the operator shall notify the regional director (compliance) stating the purpose of the notice and giving the date of discontinuance. When operations have been completed and all beer at the premises has been disposed of and accounted for, the regional director (compliance) will note approval on the notice and return a copy to the operator.

Subpart T—Refund or Adjustment of Tax or Relief From Liability

§ 25.281 General.

(a) *Reasons for refund or adjustment of tax or relief from liability.* The tax paid by a brewer on beer produced in the United States may be refunded, or adjusted on the tax return (without interest) or, if the tax has not been paid, the brewer may be relieved of liability for the tax on:

(1) Beer returned to any brewery of the brewer subject to the conditions outlined in subpart M of this part;

(2) Beer voluntarily destroyed by the brewer subject to the conditions outlined in subpart N of this part;

(3) Beer lost by fire, theft, casualty, or act of God subject to the conditions outlined in § 25.282.

(b) *Refund of beer tax excessively paid.* A brewer may be refunded the tax excessively paid on beer subject to the conditions outlined in § 25.285.

(c) *Rate of tax.* Brewers who have filed the notice required by § 25.167 and who have paid the tax on beer at the reduced rate of tax shall make claims for refund or relief of tax, or adjustments on the tax return, based upon the lower rate of tax. However, a brewer may make adjustments or claims for refund or relief of tax based on the higher rate of tax if the brewer can establish to the satisfaction of the regional director

(compliance) that the tax was paid or determined at the higher rate of tax.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1335, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5056))

§ 25.282 Beer lost by fire, theft, casualty, or act of God.

(a) *General.* The tax paid by any brewer on beer produced in the United States may be adjusted (without interest) on the excise tax return, may be refunded or credited (without interest) or, if the tax has not been paid, the brewer may be relieved of liability for the tax if, before transfer of title to the beer to any other person, the beer is lost, whether by theft or otherwise, or is destroyed or otherwise rendered unmerchable by fire, casualty, or act of God. The tax liability on excessive losses of beer from transfer between breweries of the same ownership may be remitted as provided in § 25.286.

(b) *Unmerchable beer.* When beer is rendered unmerchable by fire, casualty, or act of God, refund, credit or adjustment of tax, or relief from liability of tax will not be allowed unless the brewer proves to the satisfaction of the regional director (compliance) that the beer cannot be salvaged and returned to the market for consumption or sale.

(c) *Beer lost or destroyed.* When beer is lost or destroyed, whether by theft or otherwise, the regional director (compliance) may require the brewer to file a claim for relief from the tax and to submit proof as to the cause of the loss.

(d) *Beer lost by theft.* When it appears that beer was lost by theft, the tax shall be collected unless the brewer proves to the satisfaction of the regional director (compliance) that the theft occurred before removal from the brewery and occurred without connivance, collusion, fraud, or negligence on the part of the brewer, consignor, consignee, bailee, or carrier, or the employees or agents of any of them.

(e) *Notification of regional director (compliance).* (1) A brewer who sustains a loss of beer before transfer of title of the beer to another person and who desires to adjust the tax on the excise tax return or to file a claim for refund or for relief from liability of tax, shall, on learning of the loss of beer, immediately notify in writing the regional

director (compliance) of the region in which the loss occurred of the nature, cause, and extent of the loss, and the place where the loss occurred. Statements of witnesses or other supporting documents shall be furnished if available.

(2) A brewer possessing unmerchable beer and who desires to adjust the tax on the excise tax return or to file a claim for refund or for relief from liability shall notify in writing the regional director (compliance) of the region in which the beer is, of the circumstances by which the beer became unmerchable, and shall state why the beer cannot be salvaged and returned to the market for consumption or sale.

(f) *Additional information.* The regional director (compliance) may require the brewer to submit additional evidence necessary to verify the tax adjustment or for use in connection with a claim.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1335, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5056))

§ 25.283 Claims for refund of tax.

(a) *Beer returned to brewery or voluntarily destroyed at a location other than a brewery.* Claims for refund of tax on beer returned to a brewery under the provisions of § 25.213 or voluntarily destroyed at a location other than a brewery shall include:

(1) The name and address of the brewer filing the claim, the address of the brewery from which the beer was removed, and the address of the brewery to which the beer was returned, as applicable;

(2) The quantity of beer covered by the claim and the rate(s) of tax at which the beer was tax paid or determined;

(3) The amount of tax for which the claim is filed;

(4) The reason for return or voluntary destruction of the beer and the related facts;

(5) Whether the brewer is indemnified by insurance or otherwise in respect of the tax, and if so, the nature of the indemnification;

(6) The claimant's reasons for believing the claim should be allowed;

(7) The date the beer was returned to the brewery, if applicable;